

Development, Food and Drug Administration, and related agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes and agrees to the conference asked by the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon; and appoints Mr. SKEEN, Mr. WALSH, Mr. DICKEY, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. NETHERCUTT, Mr. BONILLA, Mr. LATHAM, Mr. LIVINGSTON, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. FAZIO, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. DELAURO, and Mr. OBEY as the managers of the conference on the part of the House.

The message also announced that the House disagrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2169) making appropriations for the Department of Transportation and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes, and agrees to the conferences asked by the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon; and appoints Mr. WOLF, Mr. DELAY, Mr. REGULA, Mr. ROGERS, Mr. PACKARD, Mr. CALLAHAN, Mr. TIAHRT, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. LIVINGSTON, Mr. SABO, Mr. FOGLIETTA, Mr. TORRES, Mr. OLVER, Mr. PASTOR, and Mr. OBEY as the managers of the conference on the part of the House.

The message also announced that the House disagrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2203) making appropriations for energy and water development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes, and agrees to the conference asked by the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon; and appoints Mr. MCDADE, Mr. ROGERS, Mr. KNOLLENBERG, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. PARKER, Mr. CALLAHAN, Mr. DICKEY, Mr. LIVINGSTON, Mr. FAZIO, Mr. VISCLOSKY, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. PASTOR, and Mr. OBEY as the managers on the part of the House.

The message further announced that the House disagrees to the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2209) making appropriations for the legislative branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes, and agrees to the conference asked by the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon; and appoints Mr. WALSH, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, Mr. WAMP, Mr. LATHAM, Mr. LIVINGSTON, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. FAZIO, Ms. KAPTUR, and Mr. OBEY as the managers of the conference on the part of the House.

The message also announced that the House disagrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2266) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes, and agrees to the conference asked by the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon; and appoints Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Mr. MCDADE, Mr. LEWIS of California, Mr. SKEEN, Mr. HOBSON, Mr. BONILLA, Mr. NETHERCUTT, Mr. ISTOOK, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, Mr. LIVINGSTON, Mr. MURTHA, Mr. DICKS, Mr. HEFNER, Mr. SABO, Mr. DIXON, Mr. VISCLOSKY, and Mr.

OBEY as the managers on the part of the House.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill, previously received from the House of Representatives for the concurrence of the Senate, was read the first and second times by unanimous consent and referred as indicated:

H.R. 2035. An act to authorize the transfer of naval vessels to certain foreign countries; to the Committee on Armed Services.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. THOMPSON, from the Committee on Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 261. A bill to provide for biennial budget process and a biennial appropriations process and to enhance oversight and the performance of the Federal Government (Rept. No. 105-72).

By Mr. SPECTER, from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, without amendment and with a preamble:

H.J. Res. 75. A joint resolution to confer status as an honorary veteran of the United States Armed Forces on Leslie Townes (Bob) Hope.

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. WELLSTONE:

S. 1147. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act, Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for nondiscriminatory coverage for substance abuse treatment services under private group and individual health coverage; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

By Mr. D'AMATO:

S. 1148. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to require the forfeiture of counterfeit access devices and device-making equipment; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. COVERDELL, Mr. SHELBY, and Mr. KYL):

S. 1149. A bill to amend title 11, United States Code, to provide for increased education funding, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. HUTCHINSON:

S. Con. Res. 50. A concurrent resolution condemning in the strongest possible terms the bombing in Jerusalem on September 4, 1997; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. WELLSTONE:

S. 1147. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act, Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for nondiscriminatory coverage for substance abuse treatment services under private group and individual health coverage; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

THE SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT PARITY ACT OF 1997

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, today I rise to introduce legislation that will ensure that private health insurance companies pay for substance abuse treatment services at the same level that they pay for treatment for other diseases. In other words, it is meant to guarantee that insurance coverage for substance abuse treatment is provided in a nondiscriminatory manner. This bill, the Substance Abuse Parity Act of 1997, provides this assurance.

For too long, the problem of substance abuse has been viewed as a moral issue, rather than a disease. A cloak of secrecy has surrounded this problem, as people who have this disease are often ashamed and afraid to admit their problem, for fear that they will be seen as admitting a weakness in character. We have all seen portrayals of alcoholics and addicts that are intended to be humorous or derogatory, and only reinforce the biases against people who have problems with substance abuse. Can you imagine this type of portrayal of someone who has a cardiac problem, or who happens to carry a gene that predisposes them to diabetes?

Yet it has been shown that some forms of addiction have a genetic basis, and we still try to hide the seriousness of this problem. We forget that someone who has a problem with drugs or alcohol can look just like the person we see in the mirror, or the person who is sitting next to us on a plane. In fact, it is unlikely that any of us have not experienced substance abuse within our families or our circle of friends.

The statistics concerning substance abuse are startling. In a recent article in *Scientific American*, December 1996, it was reported that excessive alcohol consumption is estimated to cause more than 100,000 deaths in the United States each year. Of these deaths, 24 percent are due to drunken driving, 11 percent are homicides, and 8 percent are suicides. Alcohol contributes to cancers of the esophagus, larynx, and oral cavity, which account for 17 percent of the deaths. Strokes related to alcohol use account for another nine percent of deaths. Alcohol causes several other ailments such as cirrhosis of the liver. These ailments account for 18 percent of the deaths.

We know that alcohol and other drugs contribute to other problems as well. Addictive substances have the potential for destroying the person who is addicted, their family and their other relationships. In a 1993 Report to Congress on Alcohol and Health, the Secretary of Health and Human Services